

**Uganda domestic radio and newspapers, May 17th, 2010 (covering May 10th to May 16th 2010)**

**By Laura Schülke, MIGS reporter for Uganda**

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 11, 2010, in English**

**“Ugandan opposition wants presidential term limits back” [Author unknown]**

- Opposition leaders have instructed the shadow attorney-general, Erias Lukwago, to present a motion to parliament to reinstate the two-term presidential term limit, which was scrapped in 2005.
- Addressing MPs at a closed-door meeting at parliament yesterday, the opposition leaders reportedly asked Lukwago and the opposition chief whip, Kassiano Wadri, to ask for leave from parliament and introduce a private members' bill on constitutional amendments.
- Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Wadri said the opposition also wants the restructuring of the Electoral Commission and exclusion of the army from elections. He then strongly criticized army representatives in parliament: “They have now become political, which is indirect contravention of the constitution. They sit on government side and vote for the government. They should either be thrown out or restrained,” he said.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 12, 2010, in English**

**“Minister Kiyonga renews calls for LRA to surrender” by Emmanuel Opio**

- The UPDF is considering pursuing the Lord's Resistance Army rebels up to the Central African Republic if its leader does not surrender, the defence minister has said.
- Dr. Crispus Kiyonga's warning comes weeks after the US Senate passed a Bill aimed at devising a strategy to stop the brutal 24-year-old insurgency.
- Addressing residents of Aloi in Alebtong District at the weekend, Dr. Kiyonga said the UPDF captured over 300 guns from the LRA rebels during several battles in DR Congo last year.
- "When we fought the LRA in Congo, we killed a total 300 of their soldiers," he added, warning that the grace period for Kony and his fighters had run out. He blamed Kony for not taking the Juba Peace process seriously, arguing that President Museveni had given his full backing to negotiations.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 12, 2010, in English**

**“Army destroys 250 tonnes of weapons in Nakasongola” by Dan Wandera and Tabu Butagira**

- The army yesterday began destroying 250 tonnes of weapons in a one-week exercise that officials say will help rid the country of "unwanted war materials". Lt Joram Kabagambire, the Air Defence spokesperson, said the weapons are land mines, assault rifles, bullets, and bombs captured from former rebels, Karimojong cattle rustlers and other criminals - plus expired stock in armory of security forces. Destroying the weapons is in fulfilment of the provisions of the 2005 Nairobi Protocol on combating proliferation of small arms/ammunitions in the region.

- A huge public outcry over growing insecurity, mainly in towns, perpetrated by people who own guns illegally, including allegations some state security operatives hire out guns to robbers, forced government last year to begin counting and labelling its arms to ensure accountability in official use. In 2008, the UPDF destroyed some 800 tonnes of assorted weapons, officials said.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 12, 2010, in English**

**"Congolese to miss out on relief aid after Kony strikes again" by Tabu Butagira**

- Relief agencies have suspended aid delivery to 5,000 Congolese refugees following heavy incursion of Lord's Resistance Army rebels, the Washington-based Enough Project reported on Monday.
- Enough says the hiatus, which this newspaper could not independently verify, follows an ambush by suspected rebels on a World Food Programme truck in Central African Republic's remote Mbomou province on May 6. Three people were killed and a pair wounded in the attack.
- On March 11, Enough announced 300 or more Congolese civilians had been killed in previously unreported LRA rampage from late to early this year.
- The Ugandan military swiftly denied the killings, arguing the rebels had been decimated mainly during the ad hoc Operation Lightning Thunder - and would not marshal fighters to commit mass murder.
- The UN has begun investigations into the April 11-17 security report by MONUC, its peace mission in the DRC, warning that the LRA may be moving back to arms caches in the Garamba National Park.

**The Daily Monitor (leading privately-owned newspaper) website. May 14, 2010, in English**

**"US Congress Passes Anti-LRA Bill" by Tabu Butagira**

- The US Congress has passed a new law obliging Washington to use its vast resources and leverage to neutralize the elusive Lord's Resistance Army rebel chief, Joseph Kony.
- Wednesday's overwhelming vote by the House of Representatives, two months after a Senate approval, completes a winding process nudged by several lobbyists and co-sponsors, among them Resolve Uganda.
- President Obama now has 10 days within which to sign or veto the new piece of legislation, although under the US Constitution, the Congress could, with a two-thirds majority, still confirm as law any vetoed Bill.
- The principle of the Bill is to enable US lead international effort for multilateral action to "successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the LRA and authorise funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation and transitional justice".
- The Ugandan military, which in December 2008 led a regional combat but failed to capture or kill Kony, yesterday welcomed the passing of the Bill.
- The American government already supports, and in some cases finances, UPDF operations -the latest being the ongoing mission in Mogadishu, Somalia. During Operation Lightning Thunder, the US said it offered logistical support and military intelligence but it is not clear if the new law, once signed by Mr Obama, would enable American troops to physically hunt Kony, an International Criminal Court indictee.

- Writing in the Huffington Post, Mr Feingold noted: "Our bill does not encourage a new Uganda-led military offensive against the LRA and does not sanction specific military operation."

**The New Vision (state-owned, mass-circulation daily) website. May 15, 2010, in English**

**"NGOs close shop, leave north youth jobless" [Author unknown]**

- Following the end of the LRA war, hundreds of educated youth are being left jobless as international NGOs pull out or scale down their activities in the north, reports Chris Ocowun.
- Kitgum District Chairman John Komakech Ogwok fears that any increase in the number of the unemployed, educated youth in a post-war situation might cause social problems. "What was not planned for was where to absorb these jobless young graduates. This is a big challenge," he told Saturday Vision.
- According to Gulu NGO Forum Coordinator Geoffrey Okello, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Medicins Sans Frontieres have closed their offices in Gulu. The Norwegian Refugee Council, UN-OCHA, Save the Children in Uganda closed their Pader and Lira offices last year, while the World Food Program has scaled down its activities in Kitgum.
- Okello advises former employees of the NGOs to use their experience to start their own NGOs or community-based organizations and employ more youth.